



## News Release

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests &  
Thunder Basin National Grassland  
<http://fs.usda.gov/mbr>

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### **Roads to be Closed for Hazard Tree Removal on the Yampa Ranger District**

**(YAMPA, CO. - December 15, 2011)** – Several forest management projects will be implemented this winter in the Gore Pass area of the Yampa Ranger District, Routt National Forest. Hazard tree removal from roadsides will be occurring in two phases along National Forest System Roads (NFSR) 185, 241, 243, 250, 263 and 264.

Phase 1 will include work along NFSRs 185, 241, 243 and 250 beginning this month and anticipated to run into late January or early February. Once these roads are completed, contracting operations will move on to the second phase for the duration of the winter, which includes NFSRs 263 and 264. Forest visitors are reminded that for their safety these roads will be closed to all motorized and non-motorized public access and use while contracts are active.

“While we strive to minimize impacts to visitors, closures are needed in this case for public safety,” said Yampa District Ranger Jack Lewis.

“Every effort will be made to limit public inconvenience.

“Fortunately these contracts are confined to one small part of the district and it is important to note that the majority of the district remains unaffected and open to many uses for the public to enjoy.”

Visitors are reminded that they may encounter logging machinery around contract areas and not to enter these areas, as they are closed for their safety. Additionally, the public should be aware of log trucks exiting and entering the subject NFSRs to and from Colorado Highway 134 and NFSR 270.

To minimize impacts to visitors work will generally be done during weekdays, but on occasion contract work may occur during weekends and holidays. The Forest Service apologizes for any inconvenience that this work may cause to visitors, however, the projects are essential to maintain long-term access and public safety.

Prior to heading to these areas, visitors are encouraged to stop by or call the Yampa Ranger District office at 970-638-4516 to inquire about current conditions and the status of work in these areas.

This work is generally being done in response to impacts from the mountain pine beetle epidemic. Efforts will reduce hazards to visitors and Forest Service employees.

Forest visitors need to be aware that the mountain pine beetle epidemic has increased the risk of falling trees. Trees impacted by the beetles appear red or have no needles. Green trees left after hazard tree removal treatments are also more susceptible to windthrow due to removal of surrounding trees. Remember to look up, look down and look around before setting up camps or parking vehicles under dead trees. Please be aware of the surroundings while visiting areas affected by the epidemic.

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